Some Reflections

UPON A LATE

PAMPHLET,

IN A

J. H.

LETTER to J. H.

SIR,

IT is out of a particular reſpect to you that I write theſe few haſty Lines, I being a Frequenter of your Shop, where I always was ſure to meet with things Ingenious and Loyal (I mean in the way of your *Trade*) without any appearance of thoſe lewd and ſeditious *Pamphlets*, which in theſe Licentious Times ſwarm from the Deplorable Liberty of the Preſs. A Liberty which can be of no good Conſequence in the moſt ſettled and peaceable Times, but as the miſerable Poſture of Affairs is now, 'tis certainly that to which we chiefly owe the ſpreading Contagion of our Diviſions, both in Church and State: The very beſt of Men I fear write with ſome Itch of Emulation and Contention; and as for others, their daily Libels are ſtuft with moſt malicious Inſinuations and treaſonable Suggeſtions againſt the beſt Government in the World. We have Anſwers and Rejoynders multiplyed upon each other daily, without any one fixt Point of Truth, as things are now paſſionately managed, and this peeviſh progreſs of mutual Diſpute and Contradiction, is likely to Raign *Ad infinitum*. You know a few Tuggs at the Preſs ſhall immediately produce that which ſhall with eaſe ſpeak to the whole Nation at once; ſo that the miſchievous Conceptions of a ſingle Perſon, ſhall by the help of this Diſpatch, infect Ten thouſand in few Hours. I hope the Wiſdom of the approaching *Parliament* will redreſs this loud Calamity, and at once ſtop the Occaſions of our old, as well as prevent the Propagations of new Striſes and Animoſities. Our Heart-burnings, God knows, are now riſen to ſuch a height, as nothing but the prudent and ſucceſsful Care of the Great Councel of this Nation, can ſtop from breaking out into a general Conflagration: But enough of Preamble.

The Intent of theſe Lines is to make a few Reflections upon a *Pamphlet* which met with me Yeſterday: I am ſorry to hear your Shop ſhould Credit ſuch a Scurrilous, if not Prophane Paper; However I am pleas'd to hear that you by the immediate ſtifling it have ſtopt the Mouths of thoſe hot Zealots, who make Mountains of Molehills, and greedily ſnatch at any Occaſions to expoſe the Failings of their Oppoſers, as they have done by this raſh Author, whoſe Supereminent Zeal for Loyalty was perhaps

the only Occasion of his Indiscretion in venturing upon such Irreligious Allusion they themselves not thinking their Familiarity and Sawcines with God Almight hath been more directly and notoriously Prophane, and thereby given occasion to th and many the like *Pamphlets.*

Well then, it's my opinion upon the perusal of that Paper, that the Author t more strongly to express the vile Hypocrisie of our Dissenters, was resolved to e pose them in their natural Colours; and I imagin he thought of no better way th under this Title to make their Principles and Practices diametrically opposite to t very Fundamentals of Christian Religion; for in that Pamphlet he hath dislodged t several Petitions of the Holy Prayer, and Articles of the Creed, &c. and in their roo hath planted his own sharp Reflections. This (I suppose) he did, as thinking the Digni of their new place and seat would make them appear with the greater lustre, and more advantageous state and pomp of Satyr. Besides (I suppose) he thought that as t Novelty of this odd Allusion would make his Descriptions more remarkable, by bei ing relation to those familiar parts of our Religion; so it would fix the designed Co tumely and Scandal against Dissenters so much the deeper in the mind of the Reade the Matter of Fact being undeniable, though unhappily represented under a sacre Title. Sir, my general Charity obligeth me to think well of all men, and that the Se timents of the Author were not designedly Atheistical or Profane, though an ind screet Zele hath laid him under the Censure of both. The Picture of the Persons he d signed to draw, comes very near the Life; but his Prudence might have chosen a mo sutable Frame to set it in, than that of the Sacred Word. For though 'tis true, th *Scandalum acceptum* is not always *Scandalum datum*; yet it is ill playing with such edge Tools,, especially in a Juncture when very ill Consequences may happen by the weal nes of some, and malice of others. I am not ignorant that things of this nature hav been done with less noise and outcry, than was yesterday made about this; yet it w ill timed now, when as our tottering Affairs are so unsteddy, that the Sentiments o the People, are made the Test of Truth. For my own part, I blush at the Authors i prudent choice of his Title, but can't conceive the substance of the thing absolutel Profane; for it is evident the Authors design was not at all to vilifie the Essentials o our Religion, but onely by this Ludicrous Allusion to render the Persons there point at more familiarly and plainly detestable. To conclude, I believe you (like me) thoug that Pamphlet uncapable of giving such distaste, or that from so slight occasion so gre a noise should arise, which made it at first find a place on your Counter; but since i hath been an occasion of so much Discourse, I commend your discretion in denying it room in your Shop; it being wisdom in all persons who desire the Peace of the Natio not to engage themselves in any thing which may increase or continue our Animosities

I am, Sir,

Your Servant, T. A.

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